

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (Currently Amended) An image compression device comprising:
an encoding unit performing predictive coding of an input video sequence having a plurality of frames;
a first unit leaving a first set of frames at predetermined intervals in the input video sequence to cause the encoding unit to perform predictive coding of the first set of frames;
a second unit discarding a second set of frames, which lie between two frames of the first set of frames in the input video sequence, to cause the encoding unit to skip each frame in the second set of frames and perform predictive coding of a corresponding frame of the first set of frames immediately preceding a frame from the second set of frames, wherein the discarded second set of frames includes substantially the same frame as the corresponding frame; and
an output unit outputting only encoded data of the first set of frames created by the encoding unit in association with the first unit as a result of the predictive coding of the entire input video sequence, thereby reducing the number of frames originally contained in the input video sequence prior to compression, wherein
a current frame of the input video sequence is determined as whether the current frame is positioned at the predetermined interval based on a count value and the count value is reset when the current frame is determined to be positioned at the predetermined interval
~~the first set of frames and the second set of frames include a plurality of video packs each of which includes header information, and~~
~~the header information is read to determine whether a currently read video pack is a head-end video pack in the first set of frames or the second set of frames.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The image compression device according to claim 1 wherein the first set of frames and the second set of frames includes at least one of ~~are either~~ intra-coded pictures and ~~or~~ predictive-coded pictures ~~and the second set of frames are predictive-coded pictures.~~

3. (Previously Presented) The image compression device according to claim 1 wherein the encoded data of the first set of frames created by the encoding unit is stored in a storage device having a predetermined storage capacity as a result of the predictive coding of the entire input video sequence.

4. (Original) The image compression device according to claim 1 wherein the encoding unit, the first unit, the second unit and the output unit are arranged in an MPEG2 encoder.

5. (Original) The image compression device according to claim 1 wherein the encoding unit and the output unit are arranged in an MPEG2 encoder, and the first unit and the second unit are arranged in an external control unit connected to the MPEG2 encoder.

6. (Currently Amended) An image compression method comprising:

leaving a first set of frames at predetermined intervals in an input video sequence having a plurality of frames to cause an encoding unit to perform predictive coding of the first set of frames, said encoding unit performing predictive coding of the input video sequence;

discarding a second set of frames, which lie between two frames of the first set of frames in the input video sequence, to cause the encoding unit to skip each frame in the second set of frames and perform predictive coding of a corresponding frame of the first set of frames immediately preceding a frame from the second set of frames, wherein the discarded second set of frames includes substantially the same frame as the corresponding frame; and

outputting only encoded data of the first set of frames created by the encoding unit in association with the leaving step as a result of the predictive coding of the entire input video sequence, thereby reducing the number of frames originally contained in the input video sequence prior to compression, wherein

a current frame of the input video sequence is determined as whether the current frame is positioned at the predetermined interval based on a count value and the count value is reset when the current frame is determined to be positioned at the predetermined interval

~~the first set of frames and the second set of frames include a plurality of video packs each of which includes header information, and~~

~~the header information is read to determine whether a currently read video pack is a head-end video pack in the first set of frames or the second set of frames.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The image compression method according to claim 6 wherein the first set of frames and the second set of frames includes at least one of ~~are either~~ intra-coded pictures ~~or predictive-coded pictures and the second set of frames are predictive-coded pictures.~~

8. (Previously Presented) The image compression device according to claim 6 wherein the encoded data of the first set of frames created by the encoding unit is stored in a storage device having a predetermined storage capacity as a result of the predictive coding of the entire input video sequence.

9. (Currently Amended) The image compression method according to claim 6 wherein the encoding unit is arranged in an MPEG2 encoder, and the MPEG2 encoder performs the predictive coding, the leaving ~~step~~, the discarding ~~step~~ and the outputting ~~step~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The image compression method according to claim 6 wherein the encoding unit is arranged in an MPEG2 encoder so that the MPEG2 encoder performs the predictive coding and the outputting ~~step~~, and an external control unit connected to the MPEG2 encoder is arranged so that the external control unit performs the leaving ~~step~~ and the discarding ~~step~~.

11. -13.(Cancelled)

14. (New) A device comprising:
a first unit capable of leaving a first set of frames at intervals in a sequence;
a second unit discarding a second set of frames to cause an encoding unit to perform predictive coding of a corresponding frame of the first set of frames immediately preceding a frame from the second set of frames, wherein the discarded second set of frames includes substantially a same frame as the corresponding frame; and
a processor capable of determining whether a current frame is positioned at a predetermined interval based on a count value and capable of resetting the count value upon determining the current frame is positioned at the predetermined interval.